Novacon 31
Read Me Outside!

This publication is a guide to restaurants in the Bentley, Willenhall and Walsall area, along with other bits of information that we think might prove useful. On the back cover you will find a Foot Map of the area around the Hotel, and in the centre pages a map of Walsall town centre.

Any comments regarding this publication would be much appreciated -- write to Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV143 1HX (or e-mail empties@breathemail.net).

As you can see from your *Read Me Inside!* the Quality Hotel is offering an interesting and varied convention menu in the Saddle Room Restaurant (next to the No 10 Bar) on a plate basis, you buy a plate and pile it high for a fiver (£5.00), dessert will be available at each sitting for £1.50. However, if you fancy eating out of the Hotel you will find yourself spoilt for choice. A few minutes walk down Bentley Mill Way (the road opposite the drive of the Quality Hotel) is the Showcase Cinema complex which has a Grill Room (0121-568-6910), a Deep Pan Pizza (0121-568-8053), the Grosvenor Casino (01922-645222) and the highly recommended (by the committee) Cinnamon Club Indian restaurant (0121-568-6664, www.cinnamon-club.com).

Across the road from the Quality is the Lane Arms, which offers a wide range of standard Pub Grub along with locally brewed Highgate & Walsall ales. Around the corner from the Lane Arms, on Bentley Road North, you'll find a late night off licence and a newsagents. While across from them, back on Wolverhampton Road West, there is a chip shop, the Greedy Pig café and Euro Curries Restaurant & Takeaway (where you can try a "Euro Balti – an original Balti cooked in a unique Euro style"! Call 01922-746786).

If you walk down the road beside the Lane Arms (Bentley Road North) you'll find the overflow hotel, the Travel Inn, next door to which is the family friendly Bentley Green Inn (01922-724485) a Brewsters from Brewers Fayre – which offers a *very* wide range of pub group and a reasonable selection of beers.

Out of the hotel and one mile to your *right* (down Wolverhampton Road West) you will find Willenhall (having passed a 24-hour Spar with Woolwich cashpoint, the Red Lion pub, a drive-in McDonalds and Chinese take-away and a couple of other Chinese, Indian and Pizza takeaways on your way).

First, just outside Willenhall town centre, you'll come to the wonderful Ye Old Toll House restaurant – if you want to eat here you will have to book in advance, but it is worth it (01902-605575). I recommend the table d'hôte Menu – excellent value for money – it includes starter, sweet, cheese and biscuits, liqueur coffee and one bottle of wine between four and ranges from £17-£22 per head depending on your main course. Their daily specials feature the most amazing range of fish dishes!

Just beyond the Toll House is the Jewel Balti Restaurant & Take-Away (cheap and friendly, unlicensed last time I was there so better check on 01902-605917), the Dale

House Carvery (pleasant but basic carvery) and the local Wetherspoons the Malthouse (standard Wetherspoons love 'em or hate 'em, they're all pretty much the same) and Somerfield supermarket (which has a hot buffet counter). Willenhall also features the world famous Lock Museum (01902-634542). Perhaps our illustrious Chairman and Master Locksmith, Tony Berry, could be prevailed upon to run guided tours on Saturday **_OUCH!_** Or perhaps not.

Out of the Hotel and one mile to your *left* (over the M6) takes you into Walsall, which is home to a vast number of impressive Indian restaurants including Golden Moments (the *overall* winner of the Birmingham Evening Mail Restaurant for the Millennium Competition, tel. 01922-640363, ttp://www.bite2enjoy.com/ search2.asp) which has amazing food and stunning *art deco* furnishings. Across the road from Golden Moments is Shimla Peppers – runner up in the Birmingham Evening Mail Restaurant for the Millennium Competition! Shimla's features a heated courtyard as well as sensational food (01922-640605).

If you don't fancy Indian food I can recommend the Italian food at Sofia's in the Guildhall (01922-632223), the Cantonese at the Mayflower (01922-632612) and the wide range of pub food at the Hogshead (01922-616963). Further details of the many other restaurants in Walsall and surrounding area appear below.

But what has Walsall to offer besides some amazing food?

Well there's the famous £21 million New Art Gallery (01922-654400, www.artatwalsall.org.uk) featuring *not only* the Garman Ryan Collection (donated to Walsall by Lady Kathleen Garman, widow of sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein) but *Noddy Holder's voice* in the "speaking elevator"! There is the Walsall Leather Museum – Walsall being Britain's leather capital ("ooh, er, missus!"); the Jerome K. Jerome Birthplace Museum (Stratford may have Shakespeare and Birmingham its Tolkien connection, but Walsall was the birthplace of the author of "Three Men in a Boat" - impressed eh?) *and* the Birchills Canal Museum. All these places of interest plus the impressive Walsall general market in the town centre on Saturday and the largest Sunday market in the Midlands – out at Walsall FC's Bescot Stadium!

How to get to Walsall?

The 529 (stops indicated on Foot Map) runs to Walsall's new £4.2 million "flying saucer" bus station -- just a five minute journey away (at Stand M). The 529 was the first major route in the country to be completely serviced by gas powered vehicles (using Compressed Natural Gas) and most of the buses on the route are wheelchair-friendly, easy access buses with "kneeling suspension". These run every 6 minutes throughout the day and every 20 minutes during the evening. Timetables are available from the Novacon registration desk.

General Information

Cashpoints/Banks
The nearest are:
Woolwich cashpoint in Spar (24 hour shop), Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall.
Abbey National/Link, Park Street, Walsall.
Lloyds/TSB, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).
Lloyds/TSB, Park Street, Walsall.
HSBC, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).
HSBC, St. Paul's Square (facing the steps from the Bus Station).
Halifax, Bridge Street, Walsall.
National Westminster, Park Street, Walsall.
Nationwide/Link, Bridge Street, Walsall.

Post Office
Darwall Street in Walsall, near the Bus station.

Pharmacy
Chemist on Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Bentley – see foot map.
Boots the Chemist, Park Street, Walsall.

Buses/Trains
Call the Centro Hotline on 0121-200-2700.

Taxis
A1 Rosehill, Willenhall, 01902-606090 or 633337
AJK Cars, Walsall, 01922-640630
Bentley Cars, 01902-711121
Walsall TOA Taxis, 01922-642020 or 723623

Events
The Showcase Cinema (see foot map) are previewing the Harry Potter movie Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th November. *Impressed? It has been a long time since Novacon pulled off that kind of a coup in its Film Programme!*

Screenings at 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30, 2.15, 2.45, 3.30, 4.00, 5.30, 6.00, 7.00, 7.30, 9.00, 10.10 on Saturday & Sunday with a Fri/Sat late show 11.00.

Advance tickets now available call 01922-624333.

Eating Out
Listing is by type/variety of food. Obviously I haven't tried all of these personally but those that I have tried and enjoyed are indicated *.

Where known I have included the opening times and/or telephone numbers. I strongly advise calling in advance and booking a table *wherever* you decide to go – they are all going to be very busy!

Walsall Town Centre

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372.373

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369.↑370
370A.↓371
950.951.951A
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Police Station

Law Courts

GREEN LANE

COURT WAY

6

STAFFORD STREET

DAY STREET

LORDS DRIVE

Leather Museum

LITTLETON STREET

6

Stand Z

6 (Brewood)
950.951.951A.952.953
To Birmingham

St. Paul's Street (Southside)
Stands X-Y

1.350.351.950
951.951A.952
To Cannock
999

BLUE LANE WEST

College of Arts & Technology

Job Centre

SHAW STREET

TOWNEND

Unload only

WOLVERHAMPTON STREET

331.332.340.341
342.529.999

Walsall Canal

Art Gallery

Quasar Shopping Centre

MARSH LANE

MARSH STREET

PARK BUTTS PASSAGE

Bradford Place Bus Station
Stands O-W

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STATION STREET

Saddlers Shopping Centre

Walsall Station

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BRIDGEMAN STREET

BRADFORD PL.

Cenotaph

Bradford Place Bus Station

Public Toilets

Jerome K. Jerome Museu

Tax Office

MIDLAND ROAD

DSS Offi

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BRADFORD STREET

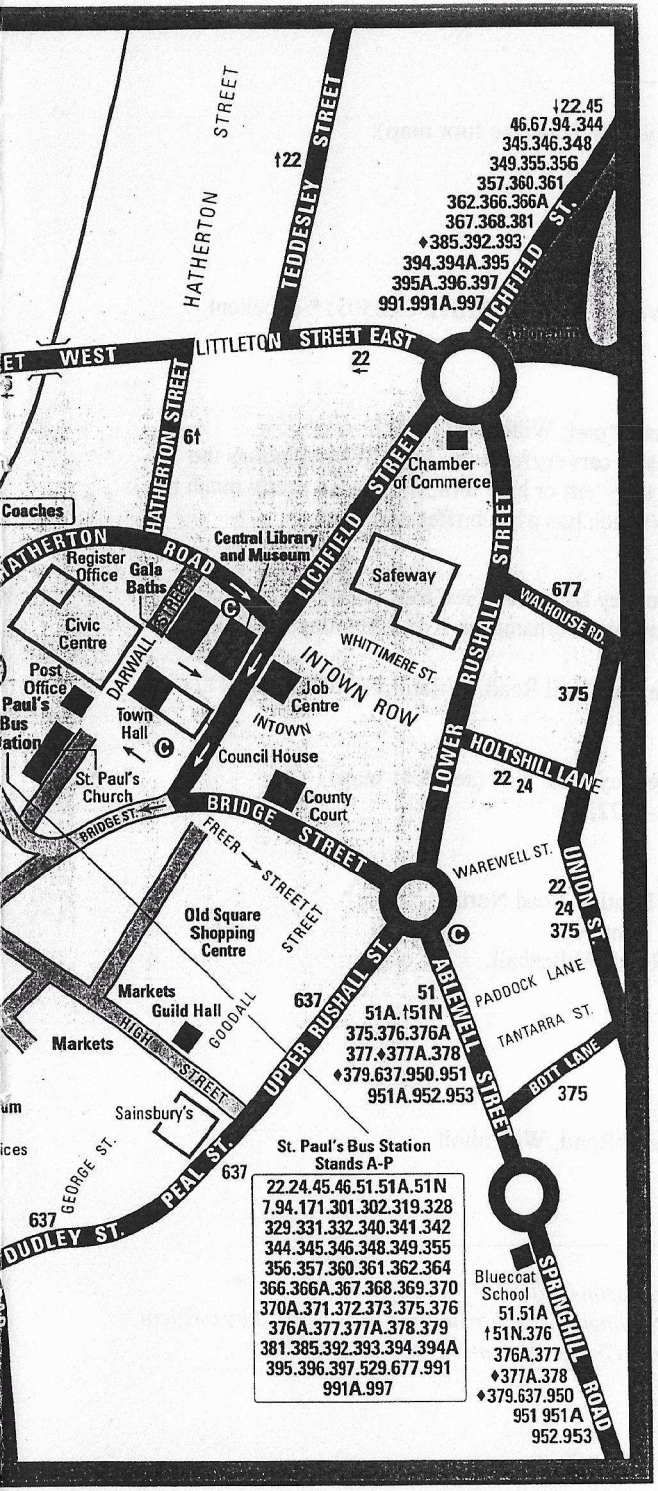
CALDMORE

VICARAGE PLACE

404

KEY

Buses only road	
Pedestrians only	
Bus served road	
Bus route number	51
Night service	51N
Certain journeys only	
Limited service only	♦
Bus Route Terminus	✱
One way street	→
Centrocard, Busmaster and TWM Travel Card sales outlets	C
Places of interest	Museum
Public buildings	Law Courts
Rail line & station	
Station entrance (In evenings use Station Street only)	
Toilets	T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Coaches
HATHERTON ROAD
Register Office
Gala Baths
Central Library and Museum
LICHFIELD STREET
Safeway
RUSHALL STREET
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WALHOUSE RD.
Civic Centre
DARWALL STREET
WHITTIMERE ST.
INTOWN ROW
Post Office
Paul's Bus ation
Town Hall
Job Centre
INTOWN
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Council House
St. Paul's Church
County Court
LOWER
HOLTSHILL LANE
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BRIDGE ST.
BRIDGE STREET
FREER STREET
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SPRINGHILL ROAD

American
Grill House, 0121-568-6910, Bentley Mill Way (see foot map).

Brassieres
Rock Café, Lichfield Street.

Chinese
New Mayflower, Lichfield Street, Walsall (01922-632612-622505) * excellent buffet.

English/Continental
Ye Old Toll House restaurant, Walsall Road, Willenhall (01902-605575).
Dale House Carvery (pleasant but basic carvery) and the local Wetherspoons the Malthouse (standard Wetherspoons love 'em or hate 'em, they're all pretty much the same) and Somerfield supermarket (which has a hot buffet counter).

Indian
Cinnamon Club, 0121-568-6664, Bentley Mill Way (see foot map).
Euro Curries Restaurant & Takeaway, Wolverhampton Road, Bentley, (01922-746786).
Jewel Balti Restaurant & Take-Away, Walsall Road, Willenhall (01902-605917).

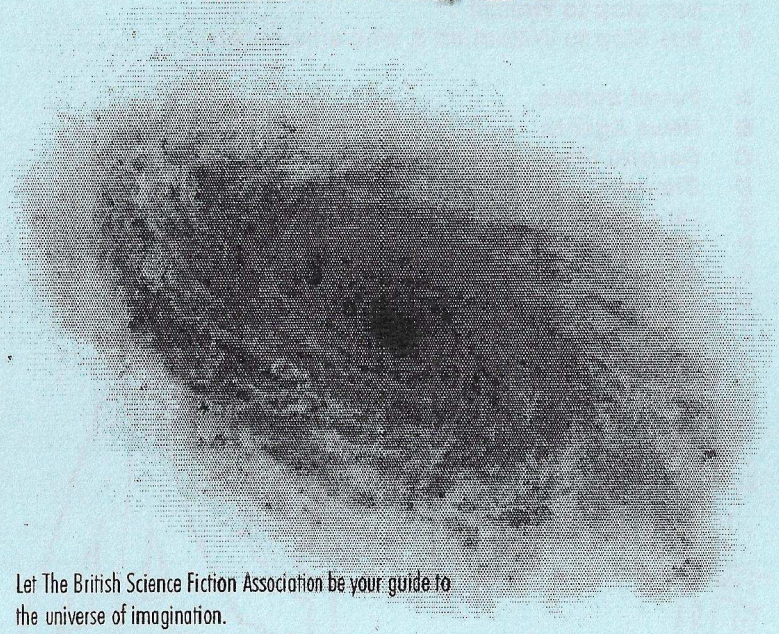
Italian
Deep Pan Pizza, 0121-568-8053, Bentley Mill Way (see foot map).
Sofias, High Street, Walsall (01922-632223).

Pub Meals
Bentley Green Inn, 01922-724485, Bentley Road North.
Lane Arms, Wolverhampton Road, Bentley.
Malthouse, (Wetherspoons), New Road, Willenhall.

Takeaway
Burgerking, Park Street, Walsall.
KFC, Ablewell Street, Walsall.
MacDonalds, Park Street, Walsall.
MacDonalds, Wolverhampton/Walsall Road, Willenhall.

[This publication was produced by Martin Tudor for Novacon 31, 9th – 11th November 2001, on behalf of the Birmingham SF Group and was printed by Critical Wave Publications, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX.]

worlds beyond number



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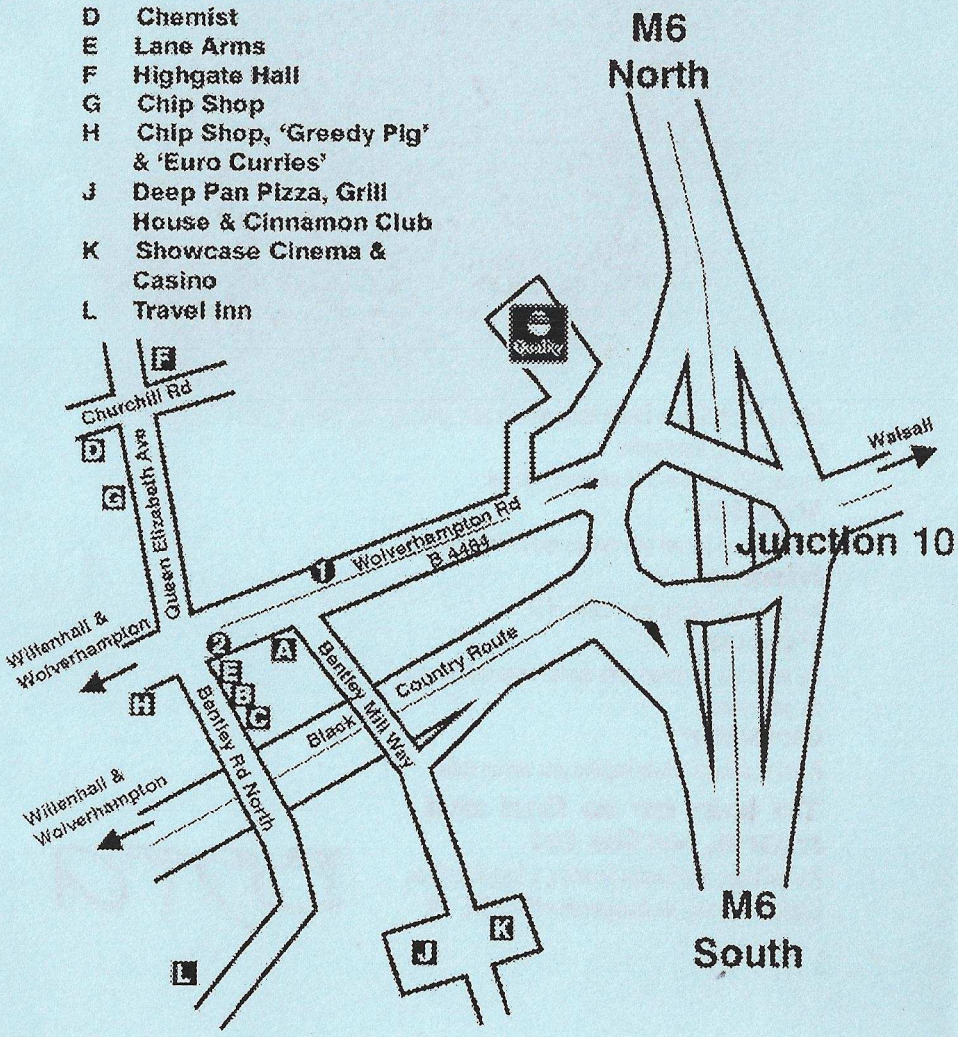
A Petrol Station
B News Agents
C General Store & Off Licence
D Chemist
E Lane Arms
F Highgate Hall
G Chip Shop
H Chip Shop, 'Greedy Pig' & 'Euro Curries'
J Deep Pan Pizza, Grill House & Cinnamon Club
K Showcase Cinema & Casino
L Travel Inn